IN THE CLAIMS:

The following is a complete listing of the claims, and replaces all earlier listings and all earlier versions.

_a l_
Cont

1.   (Currently Amended) A method of editing a video sequence comprising at least one clip, each [[said]] clip [[each]] having a determinable duration, said method comprising the steps of:

extracting characteristic data associated with each [[said]] clip from [[said]] the sequence, [[said]] the characteristic data including at least time data related to the corresponding [[said]] duration;

processing [[said]] the characteristic data according to at least one template of editing rules to form editing instruction data, [[said]] the editing rules comprising at least a predetermined cutting format configured to form edited segments based on a plurality of predetermined segment durations; and

processing [[said]] the video sequence according to [[said]] the editing instruction data to form an edited sequence of [[said]] the edited segments.

2.   (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 1, wherein [[said]] the cutting format provides for the formation of [[said]] the edited segments each comprising one of at least a first duration and a second duration and for the discarding of at least a portion of each [[said]] clip.

3.   (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 2, wherein [[said]] the first duration is between 1 and 8 seconds and [[said]] the second duration is between 2 and 20 seconds.

4.   (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 3, wherein [[said]] the first duration is about 4 seconds and [[said]] the second duration is about 10 seconds.

5.   (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 2, wherein [[said]] the edited sequence is formed from a time sequential combination of [[said]] the segments based upon a predetermined cutting pattern formed using segments of [[said]] the first duration and [[said]] the second duration.

6.   (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 5, wherein [[said]] the predetermined cutting pattern comprises alternate first duration segments and second duration segments.

7.   (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 2, wherein an initial interval of a predetermined (third) duration is discarded from each [[said]] clip prior to formation of [[said]] the edited segments from a remainder of [[said]] the clip.

8.   (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 7, wherein said third duration is between 0.5 and 2 seconds.

- 3 -

9. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 2, wherein an internal interval of a predetermined (fourth) duration is discarded from at least one of [[said]] the clips from which at least two of [[said]] the edited segments are to be formed, [[said]] the internal interval separating portions of [[said]] the clip from which [[said]] the two edited segments are formed.

10. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 9, wherein [[said]] the fourth duration is between 1 and 5 seconds.

11. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 1, wherein the formation of [[said]] the edited segments comprises cutting [[said]] the segments from [[said]] the clips.

12. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 2, wherein the .formation of [[said]] the edited segments comprises cutting a portion from at least one [[said]] of the clips and modifying a reproduction duration of [[said]] the portion to correspond with one of [[said]] the first duration or [[said]] the second duration.

13. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 12, wherein [[said]] the cutting and modifying are performed when [[said]] the portion has a reproduction duration within a predetermined range of one of [[said]] the first and second durations.

14.   (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 13, wherein [[said]] the predetermined range is from 70% to 200% of [[said]] the one of [[said]] the first and second durations.

15.   (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 12, wherein [[said]] the modifying comprises multiplying the reproduction time of [[said]] the portion by a predetermined factor and cutting the modified portion to one of [[said]] the first or second durations.

16.   (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 2, wherein [[said]] the editing rules comprise an edited duration during which [[said]] the edited segments are to be reproduced and from which a number of [[said]] the edited segments is determined based upon [[said]] the first and second durations.

17.   (Original) A method according to claim 1, wherein [[said]] the segment durations are determined using a beat period of a sound track to be associated with [[said]] the edited sequence.

18.   (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 1, wherein [[said]] the characteristic data comprises data accompanying [[said]] the video sequence.

19.   (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 1, wherein [[said]] the editing rules includes incorporating at least one title matte as part of [[said]] the edited sequence.

20.   (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 19, wherein [[said]] the title matte is formed and incorporated according to a sub-method comprising the steps of:

examining [[said]] the time data for each [[said]] clip to identify those of [[said]] the clips that are associable by a predetermined time function, [[said]] the associable clips being arranged into corresponding groups of clips;

identifying at least one of a beginning and a conclusion of each [[said]] roup as a title location;

[[at]] for at least one [[said]] title location, examining at least one of corresponding [[said]] time data and further [[said]] characteristic data to generate [[said]] ·the insert title including at least a text component; and

incorporating [[said]] the insert title into [[said]] the sequence at [[said]] the title location.

21.   (Original) An edited video sequence formed using the method of any one of the preceding claims.

22.   (Currently Amended) A computer readable medium, having a program recorded thereon, where the program is configured to make a computer execute a

procedure to edit a video sequence comprising at least one clip, each said clip [[each]]

having a determinable duration, said program being configured to implement the steps of:

extracting from [[said]] the sequence characteristic data associated with

each [[said]] the clip, [[said]] the characteristic data including at least time data related to

the corresponding [[said]] duration;

processing [[said]] the characteristic data according to at least one template

of editing rules to form editing instruction data, [[said]] the editing rules comprising at least

a predetermined cutting format configured to form edited segments based on a plurality of

predetermined segment durations; and

processing [[said]] the video sequence according to editing instruction data

[[said]] the to form an edited sequence of [[said]] the edited segments.

23.   (Currently Amended) A computer readable medium according to

claim 22, wherein [[said]] the cutting format provides for the formation of [[said]] the

edited segments each comprising one of at least a first duration and a second duration and

for discarding of at least a portion of each [[said]] clip, and wherein an initial interval of a

predetermined (third) duration is discarded from each [[said]] clip prior to formation of

[[said]] the edited segments from a remainder of [[said]] the clip.

24.   (Currently Amended) A computer readable medium according to

claim 23, wherein [[said]] the first duration is between 1 and 8 seconds, [[said]] the second

duration is between 2 and 20 seconds, and [[said]] the third duration is between 0.5 and 2

seconds.

25.   (Currently Amended) A computer readable medium according to claim 23, wherein an internal interval of a predetermined (fourth) duration is discarded from at least one of [[said]] the clips from which at least two of [[said]] the edited segments are to be formed, [[said interval]] the interval separating portions of [[said]] the clip from which [[said]] the two edited segments are formed, [[said]] the fourth duration being between 1 and 5 seconds.

26.   (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 22, wherein the formation of [[said]] the edited segments comprises cutting [[said]] the segments from [[said]] the clips.

27.   (Currently Amended) A computer readable medium according to claim 23, wherein the formation of [[said]] the edited segments comprises cutting a portion from at least one [[said]] the clip and modifying a reproduction duration of [[said]] the portion to correspond with one of [[said]] the first duration or [[said]] the second duration.

28.   (Currently Amended) A computer readable medium according to claim 27, wherein [[said]] the cutting and modifying are performed when [[said]] the portion has a reproduction duration within a predetermined range of one of [[said]] the first and second durations, [[said]] the predetermined range being from 70% to 200% of [[said]] the one of [[said]] the first and second durations.

- 8 -

29.   (Currently Amended) A computer readable medium according to claim 27, wherein [[said]] the modifying comprises expanding the reproduction time of [[said]] the portion by a predetermined factor and cutting the modified portion to one of [[said]] the first or second durations.

30.   (Currently Amended) A computer readable medium according to claim 23, wherein [[said]] the editing rules comprise an edited duration during which [[said]] the edited segments are to be reproduced and from which a number of [[said]] the edited segments is determined based upon [[said]] the first and second durations.

31.   (Currently Amended) A computer readable medium according to claim 23, wherein [[said]] the edited sequence is formed from a time sequential combination of [[said]] the segments based upon a predetermined cutting pattern formed using segments of [[said]] the first duration and [[said]] the second duration, [[said]] the predetermined cutting pattern comprising one of alternate first duration segments and second duration segments or a pseudo-random selection of first duration segments and second duration segments.

32.   (Original) A computer readable medium according to claim 22, wherein [[said]] the segment durations are determined using a beat period of a sound track to be associated with [[said]] the edited sequence.

33. (Currently Amended) A computer readable medium according to claim [[23]] 22, wherein [[said]] the characteristic data comprises data selected from the group consisting of:

data accompanying [[said]] the video sequence; and

data formed by analysing [[said]] the video sequence, [[said]] the analysing comprises comprising at least one of time analysis, image analysis, sound analysis and motion analysis.

34. (Currently Amended) A computer readable medium according to claim [[23]] 22, wherein [[said]] the editing rules includes incorporating at least one title matte as part of [[said]] the edited sequence, [[said]] the title matte being formed and incorporated according to a sub-method comprising the steps of:

examining [[said]] the time data for each [[said]] clip to identify those of [[said]] the clips that are associable by a predetermined time function, [[said]] the associable clips being arranged into corresponding groups of clips;

identifying at least one of a beginning and a conclusion of each [[said]] roup as a title location;

[[at]] for at least one [[said]] title location, examining at least one of corresponding [[said]] time data and further [[said]] the characteristic data to generate [[said]] the insert title including at least a text component; and

incorporating [[said]] the insert title into [[said]] the sequence at [[said]] the title location.

- 10 -

35.   (Currently Amended) A visual image editing system comprising:

supply means for providing a video sequence comprising at least one clip,

each said clip [[each]] having a determinable duration;

extracting means for extracting from said sequence characteristic data

associated with each said clip, said characteristic data including at least time data related to

the corresponding said duration;

processing means for processing said characteristic data according to at least

one predetermined template of editing rules to form editing instruction data, said editing

rules comprising at least a predetermined cutting format configured to form edited

segments based on a plurality of predetermined segment durations, said cutting format

providing for the formation of said edited segments each comprising one of at least a first

duration and a second duration and for discarding of at least a portion of each said clip, and

wherein an initial interval of a predetermined (third) duration is discarded from each said

clip prior to formation of said edited segments from a remainder of said clip;

editing means for editing said video sequence according to said editing

instruction data to form an edited sequence of said edited segments; and

output means for receiving said edited sequence.

36.   (Currently Amended) A system according to claim 35, wherein said

supply means comprises a storage arrangement configured to couple said video sequence to

said extraction means and said output means comprises at least one of a display device by

which said edited sequence is viewable and a further storage arrangement for storing said

edited sequence.

37.   (Currently Amended) A system according to claim 36, wherein said characteristic data comprises metadata, said extracting means forming a metadata file of said video sequence based upon each said clip, said metadata file forming an input to said processing means, at least said processing means comprising a computer device operable to interpret said metadata file according to said rules to form said edit instruction data.

38.   (Currently Amended) A system according to claim [[37]] 35, wherein said first duration is between 1 and 8 seconds, said second duration being between 2 and 20 seconds and said third duration is between 0.5 and 2 seconds and an internal interval of a predetermined (fourth) duration is discarded from at least one of said clips from which at least two of said edited segments are to be formed, said internal interval separating portions of said clip from which said two edited segments are formed, said fourth duration being between 1 and 5 seconds.

39.   (Currently Amended) A system according to claim [[38]] 35, wherein said editing means comprises means for cutting a portion from at least one said clip and modifying a reproduction duration of said portion to correspond with one of said first duration or said second duration.

40.   (Currently Amended) A system according to claim 39, wherein said cutting and modifying are performed when said portion has a reproduction duration within a predetermined range of one of said first and second durations, said predetermined range being from 70% to 200% of said one of said first and second durations.

- 12 -

41.   (Currently Amended) A system according to claim [[40]] 39, wherein said modifying comprises expanding the reproduction time of said portion by a predetermined factor and cutting the modified portion to one of said first or second durations.

42.   (Currently Amended) A system according to claim [[38]] 35, wherein said processing means comprises a store of said editing rules, one of said editing rules comprising an edited duration during which said edited segments are to be reproduced and from which said processing means is configured to determine a number of said edited segments based upon said first and second durations.

43.   (Currently Amended) A system according to claim [[42]] 35, wherein said editing means forms said edited sequence from a time sequential combination of said segments based upon a predetermined cutting pattern formed using segments of said first duration and said second duration.

44.   (Currently Amended) A system according to claim 43, wherein said predetermined cutting pattern comprises one of alternate first duration segments and second duration segments and a pseudo-random selection of first duration segments and second duration segments.

45.   (Currently Amended) A system according to claim 35, wherein said editing rules comprise incorporating at least one title matte as part of said edited sequence,

said system further comprising means for forming and incorporating said title matte into said edited sequence, said means for forming and incorporating comprising:

associating means for examining said time data for each said clip to identify those of said clips that are associable by a predetermined time function, said associable clips being arranged into corresponding groups of clips;

identifying means for identifying at least one of a beginning and a conclusion of each said group as a title location;

characteristic data examining means for <u>examining</u>, [[at]] <u>for</u> at least one said title location, ~~examining~~ at least one of corresponding said time data and further said characteristic data to generate said insert title including at least a text component; and

means for incorporating said insert title into said sequence at said title location.

46.   (Currently Amended) A method of editing a video sequence comprising a plurality of individual clips and associated data including at least time data related to a real time at which [[said]] <u>the</u> clip was recorded, said method comprising the steps of:

(a)   examining [[said]] <u>the</u> time data for each [[said]] clip to identify those of [[said]] <u>the</u> clips that are associable by a predetermined time function, [[said]] <u>the</u> associable clips being arranged into corresponding groups of clips;

(b)   identifying at least one of a beginning and a conclusion of each [[said]] group as a title location;

(c)   [[at]] for at least one [[said]] the title location, examining at least one

of corresponding [[said]] time data and further data to generate an insert title including at

least a text component; and

(d)   incorporating [[said]] the insert title into [[said]] the sequence at

[[said]] the title location.

47.   (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 46, wherein

[[said]] the predetermined time function comprises associating any two sequential clips

within a group when the period between the real-time conclusion of one [[said]] of the clips

and the real-time commencement of the following [[said]] clip is less than a predetermined

(first) duration.

48.   (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 46, wherein

[[said]] the further data comprises user provided data.

49.   (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 46, wherein

[[said]] the further data comprises generated data formed by analysing the corresponding

[[said]] clip and step (c) comprises examining [[said]] the data to select from a rule-based

group of alternatives at least one title component from a title database, [[said]] the title

components collectively forming [[said]] the insert title.

50.   (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 49, wherein

[[said]] the title components are selected from the group consisting of individual words and

- 15 -

phrases, [[said]] the title components being configured for selection in response to a

rule-based examination of [[said]] the data.

51.   (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 50, wherein [[said]] the title database comprises a plurality of typeset configurations applicable to [[said]] the title components to modify a visual impact of [[said]] the insert title.

52.   (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 49, wherein [[said]] the title database comprises a graphical database of graphical objects configured for inclusion in [[said]] the insert title.

53.   (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 46, wherein [[said]] the insert title comprises a matte background permitting superimposition of [[said]] the insert title upon [[said]] the clip.

54.   (Currently Amended) An edited video sequence formed using the method of any one of claims 46 to [[53]] 53.

55.   (Currently Amended) A computer readable medium, having a program recorded thereon, where the program is configured to make a computer execute a procedure to editing a video sequence comprising a plurality of individual clips and associated data including at least time data related to a real time at which [[said]] the clip was recorded, said program being configured to implement the steps of:

(a) examining [[said]] <u>the</u> time data for each [[said]] <u>the</u> clip to identify those of [[said]] <u>the</u> clips that are associable by a predetermined time function, [[said]] <u>the</u> associable clips being arranged into corresponding groups of clips;

(b) identifying at least one of a beginning and a conclusion of each [[said]] group as a title location;

(c) [[at]] <u>for</u> at least one [[said]] title location, examining at least one of corresponding [[said]] time data and further data to generate an insert title including at least a text component; and

(d) incorporating [[said]] <u>the</u> insert title into [[said]] <u>the</u> sequence at [[said]] <u>the</u> title location.

56. (Currently Amended) A computer readable medium according to claim 55, wherein [[said]] <u>the</u> predetermined time function comprises associating any two sequential clips within a group when the period between the real-time conclusion of one [[said]] <u>of the</u> clips and the real-time commencement of the following [[said]] clip is less than a predetermined (first) duration.

57. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 55, wherein [[said]] <u>the</u> further data comprises user provided data.

58. (Currently Amended) A computer readable medium according to claim 55, wherein [[said]] <u>the</u> further data comprises generated data formed by analysing the corresponding [[said]] clip and step (c) comprises examining [[said]] <u>the</u> data to select

- 17 -

from a rule-based group of alternatives at least one title component from a title database, [[said]] the title components collectively forming [[said]] the insert title.

59.   (Currently Amended) A computer readable medium according to claim 58, wherein [[said]] the title components are selected from the group consisting of individual words and phrases, [[said]] the title components being configured for selection in response to a rule-based examination of [[said]] the data.

60.   (Currently Amended) A computer readable medium according to claim 59, wherein [[said]] the title database comprises a plurality of typeset configurations applicable to [[said]] the title components to modify a visual impact of [[said]] the insert title.

61.   (Currently Amended) A computer readable medium according to claim 58, wherein [[said]] the title database comprises a graphical database of graphical objects configured for inclusion in [[said]] the insert title.

62.   (Currently Amended) A computer readable medium according to claim 55, wherein [[said]] the insert title comprises a matte background permitting superimposition of [[said]] the insert title upon [[said]] the clip.

63.   (Currently Amended) A system for editing a video sequence comprising a plurality of individual clips and associated data including at least time data related to a real time at which said clip was recorded, said system comprising:

associating means for examining said time data for each said clip to identify those of said clips that are associable by a predetermined time function, and for arranging associable ones of said clips into corresponding groups of clips;

identifying means for identifying at least one of a beginning and a conclusion of each said group as a title location;

examining means for examining, [[at]] for at least one said title location, at least one of corresponding said time data and further data to generate an insert title including at least a text component; and

editing means for incorporating said insert title into said sequence at said title location.

64.   (Currently Amended) A system according to claim 63, wherein clips within each said group are sequentially associable by said predetermined time function and said predetermined time function comprises associating any two sequential clips within a group when the period between the real-time conclusion of one said clip and the real-time commencement of the following said clip is less than a predetermined (first) duration.

65.   (Currently Amended) A system according to claim [[64]] 63, wherein said further data comprises user provided data.

66.   (Currently Amended) A system according to claim [[65]] 63, wherein said further data comprises generated data formed by analysing the corresponding said clip and said examining means examines said data to select from a rule-based group of alternatives at least one title component from a title database, said title components collectively forming said insert title.

67.   (Currently Amended) A system according to claim 66, wherein said title components are selected from the group consisting of individual words and phrases, said title components being configured for selection in response to a rule-based examination of said data.

68.   (Currently Amended) A system according to claim 67, wherein said title database comprises a plurality of typeset configurations applicable to said title components to modify a visual impact of said insert title.

69.   (Currently Amended) A system according to claim [[68]] 66, wherein said title database comprises a graphical database of graphical objects configured for inclusion in said insert title.

70.   (Currently Amended) A system according to claim 63, wherein said insert title comprises a matte background permitting superimposition of said insert title upon said clip.

71.   (New) A method according to claim 1, wherein said one template is selected from a plurality of templates each comprising different combinations of editing rules.